CLAIMS

1. A connector for connecting building components in a manner that permits bi-directional relative movement between the building components, the connector comprising:

a. a first plate;

b. a second plate disposed at a selected angle relative to the first plate;

c. each plate having a pair of flanges disposed on opposite sides thereof;

d. at least one elongated slot formed in each plate and wherein the slot in one plate is oriented at an angle with respect to the slot in the other plate;

e. a pair of spaced apart reinforcing straps extending between the first and second plates, each strap extending between one flange on one plate and another flange on the other plate.

2. The connector of claim 1 wherein each plate includes a central portion and wherein the flanges of each plate are integrally formed and are oriented generally normal to the central portion of the plate, and wherein the flanges of said first plate are generally aligned with the flanges of the second plate; and wherein each strap is connected between one flange of one plate and another flange of the other plate.

3. The connector of claim 1 wherein the first and second plates are connected together by one or more fasteners.

4. The connector of claim 1 including at least one reinforcing member adapted to be disposed adjacent one of the plates.

5. The connector of claim 4 wherein the reinforcing member includes at least one opening formed therein that permits a fastener to be extended through the opening in the reinforcing member and through an adjacent slot in one of the plates.

6. The connector of claim 4 wherein the reinforcing member comprises a slide bar having one or more openings therein to accommodate an attaching fastener and wherein the

slide bar is movable with respect to the adjacent plate in response to bi-directional movement occurring between two building components.

7. The connector of claim 1 wherein each plate includes a pair of spaced apart elongated slots and wherein the slots in one plate extend in a direction generally normal to the direction of the slots in the other plate.

8. The connector of claim 1 wherein the two plates are connected together by means other than the straps.

9. The connector of claim 8 wherein the means for connecting the two plates together include at least two fasteners with each fastener extending through a portion of one flange of one plate and another flange of the other plate.

10. The connector of claim 9 wherein the two plates are disposed at an angle of approximately 90^{o} with respect to each other.

11. The connector of claim 1 wherein the connector includes a series of fasteners that include at least four fasteners for connecting the respective straps to the respective flanges of the plates and at least two fasteners for directly connecting the two flanges of each plate with the two flanges of the other plate.

12. The connector of claim 1 wherein the first and second plates are formed from the same piece of material.

13. The connector of claim 1 wherein the first and second plates are connected by a bend extending between the two plates.

14. The connector of claim 13 including a pair of fasteners for securing the flanges of one plate to the flanges of the other plate adjacent the bend.

15. A building structure comprising:

a. a plurality of horizontal members;

b. a plurality of vertical members;

c. a plurality of connectors with each connector being connected between one vertical member and one horizontal member such that one of the members can move relative to the other member while the connector is connected therebetween, each connector comprising:

i. a first plate;

ii. a second plate disposed at a selected angle relative to the first plate;

iii. each plate having a pair of flanges disposed on opposite sides thereof;

iv. at least one elongated slot formed in each plate and wherein the slot in one plate is oriented at an angle with respect to the slot in the other plate;

v. a pair of spaced apart reinforcing straps extending between the first and second plates, each strap extending between one flange on one plate and another flange on the other plate.

16. The building structure of claim 15 wherein each connector is connected to one horizontal member and one vertical member by fasteners that secure the first plate to the horizontal member and the second plate to the vertical member.

17. The building structure of claim 16 including a reinforcing member disposed adjacent at least one plate of respective connectors and wherein the reinforcing member is secured by at least one of the fasteners that connect the connector to either the horizontal member or the vertical member.

18. The building structure of claim 17 wherein the reinforcing member when secured to the plate of a connector is movable with respect to the plate.

19. The building structure of claim 15 wherein the first and second plates are connected by a bend that extends between the plates.

20. The building structure of claim 15 wherein the first and second plates are formed from a single piece of material and include a bend extending between the first and second plates.

21. The building structure of claim 20 wherein the flanges of one plate are connected to the flanges of the other plate by fasteners disposed adjacent the bend.

22. A connector for connecting first and second building members together and which permits one of the building members to move with respect to the other, the connector comprising:

a. a track adapted to be connected to the first building member;

b. a connecting member slidably contained in the track and movable back and forth therein;

c. the connecting member having a first portion confined in the track and a second portion extending at an angle with respect to the first portion and wherein the second portion of the connecting member extends outwardly from the track; and

d. wherein the second portion of the connecting member is adapted to be connected to the second building member.

23. The connector of claim 22 wherein the second portion of the connecting member includes at least one elongated slot.

24. The connector of claim 23 wherein the track extends in a direction generally normal to the direction of the elongated slot in the second portion of the connecting member.

25. The connector of claim 22 wherein the first and second portions of the connecting member are formed from one piece of material.

26. The connector of claim 22 including one or more fasteners for securing the second portion of the connecting member to the second building member.

27. The connector of claim 22 wherein the first portion of the connecting member confined within the track includes one or more reinforcing ribs.

28. The connector of claim 22 wherein the second portion of the connecting member assumes a generally U-shaped channel configuration.

29. The connector of claim 22 wherein the second portion of the connecting member includes a pair of opposed flanges.

30. The connector of claim 29 wherein the flanges extend in a direction generally perpendicular to the direction of the one or more slots formed in the second portion of the connecting member.

31. The connector of claim 22 including a reinforcing member adapted to be disposed adjacent the second portion of the connecting member.